

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,

vs.

TRICIA MARIE VOWELL,  
Defendant.

**8:20CR108**

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on the request of the defendant seeking compassionate release. [Filing No. 68](#). Defendant seeks a reduction of sentence pursuant to [18 U.S.C. § 3582\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) as amended by Section 603 of the First Step Act, [Pub. L. No. 115-391](#), 132 Stat. 5194 (2018). In Section 603 of the First Step Act, Congress amended [18 U.S.C. § 3582\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) to permit defendants to move a sentencing court for compassionate release “after the defendant has fully exhausted all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant’s behalf or the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the defendant’s facility, whichever is earlier.” Under the law, it matters not that the COVID-19 pandemic creates a great health risk to many prisoners. Administrative exhaustion under the Act is a jurisdictional prerequisite to this Court making a decision as to compassionate relief. The Court notes that the defendant has exhausted her administrative remedies with the prison system. See [Filing No. 68](#). The Court notes that Mary Gryva already represents the defendant and is CJA appointed. The Court will order the United States Probation office to prepare an investigative report, review the relevant medical records and provide the Court with any additional relevant records not included

in the filing, and conduct a review of the suggested home detention placement. The Court will likewise order the government to file its response.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The United States Probation Office, Doug Steensma, is ordered to review the defendant's motion, Bureau of Prison records, and file an investigative report within 30 days.
2. The United States Attorney's office, Joseph Kelly, shall have 14 days after the Probation Office files its report to file a responsive brief; and
3. The defendant shall have seven days after the Government files its brief to file a reply brief, if she so chooses.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2023.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Joseph F. Bataillon  
Senior United States District Judge